

Summer Newsletter 2020

Thoughts from our Chairman

Oh my goodness – what a frustrating start to our spring and summer period. I'm sure, if you're like me, you've heard just about enough about how the COVID19 pandemic has dramatically affected normal operations of businesses and charities. But I would like to focus on some good news instead.



As I mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, Neil provided three physical training sessions to our team of National and Trainee Observers but then used web-based technology to keep up the momentum by using our Zoom platform to engage with the team after lockdown.

Now that Advanced riding coaching is once again permitted nationwide, Neil and senior NOs are busy with all bike Observers taking them on ride-outs to ensure their skills have not degraded and they are once again sharp and ready to coach waiting Associates. Observers will be in touch with their Associates imminently to recommence their Advanced courses.

Advanced Driving coaching has not yet been given the go ahead by the Scottish Government but the Driving Observer team are getting in touch with their Associates and asking them to practice and prepare for resuming, we hope by the end of August.

I hope you all saw our invites to web based presentations. We have had 2 excellent external guest speakers. Mark Ryan, ex-Fife Traffic Police and Police driving instructor kicked off the virtual meeting series with an entertaining talk of his time with traffic police and some of the challenges that police drivers have to deal with.



Next, Neil Robertson, also ex police but with Grampian, told us about his experience working 500bhp piste bashers on the snow slopes of Norway and Greenland.

Then, he related how he got involved as a supporting motorcyclist for the cycling tour of Norway. The presentation included some stunning photos and great video clips of the motorcycle support team in action travelling up to 60mph alongside the pedal pushers.

Our next one will be equally interesting. Scott Tulip of IAM RoadSmart is to present a talk about supporting the Gurkha Welfare Trust train Nepalese motorcyclists so that they can provide emergency aid to remote communities in one of the most inhospitable terrains on the planet.



The car fraternity are not being left out though. In September, Stuart Gray of Knockhill Racing circuit will present a history of the track and some of the exciting events that take place there. Another one not to be missed.

You will recall that I had planned 3 great runs for this year. We have not cancelled them; they are simply postponed so keep looking at our website for updates to these social get togethers; the East Neuk Fish & Chip trip, Whisky Galore – the dry run and Commando – are you tough enough.

I would also like to welcome 10 new bike members and 3 new driver members who have joined IAM RoadSmart and been allocated to Aberdeen group. We look forward to getting you all started with an Observer when we once again get back to normal coaching sessions. I say normal, but they will not quite be the same as before. Bikers will have to maintain social distancing and drivers will have rigorous sanitising procedures in place as well as having to wear personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks. IAM RoadSmart have made suitable PPE available from their merchandising arm.

I thank all our Associates for remaining patient throughout this period but I can assure you, we are now doing our best to getting started. If you have concerns or need further information, please drop us an email

info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you at any of our forthcoming events.

Joff Christie

Chairman

AberdeeninAction – Please Help



Regrettably, lockdown brought the refurbishment of our MDU to an untimely halt but, in any case, all the public events that we had hoped to attend, have been cancelled. We will want the MDU ready for the 2021 season though, so if you've a few hours that you could help us prepare it, in the autumn / winter months, we would be very grateful. (Only general DIY or painting skills required.)

If you can help us, please contact

info@aberdeenadvancedmotorists.org.uk

Note that our email address changed recently, please update your email contact list. ".uk" was added.

MembershipSubscriptions

I have found that some members are not yet familiar with the system of renewing annual subscriptions to IAM RoadSmart and Aberdeen Advanced Motorists. You need to subscribe to both to remain a member of AAM. Valid subscriptions are also necessary to allow coaching sessions to proceed.

IAM RoadSmart will send all members a new card about 1 month before their subscription is due but please read the accompanying flyer carefully. The card is not valid until the annual renewal subscription (of £39 currently) has been paid. You must pay that directly to IAM not AAM.

We recommend you pay your AAM subscription of £10 at the same time. That is paid by bank transfer or standing order to us not IAM – details of our account can be found on a link on Members page on our web site. I regret that we can no longer handle cheques.

Thank you all for your continuing support to IAM RoadSmart and Aberdeen Advanced Motorists.

Ken London

Treasurer

GettingtoKnowYou & PastTimes

We are continually updating the content of our web pages. In July, we introduced a section on the members page called [Getting to Know You](#). Some of our members have kicked the feature off by answering a few questions about their machines and motoring experiences.

We are also expanding the News page with a feature called [Past Times](#). Here you can see some newspaper clips or photos from past events - a brief snapshot of some interesting events in our Group' history.

We hope you find them of interest.

We would really appreciate if you could send us material to augment the content.

In the first feature, Joff tells us about his early biking experience, time at the TT and presents his current "steeds".



Below is a picture which will be going in *Past Times*, taken in the 70's, I guess, looking at the flared trousers and go-faster stripe jacket. This is one of our current driver Observers. Can you recognise him 40 to 50 years younger?



Thankyou Ythan Valley

We would like to thank Ythan Valley Rotary club for the use of their Zoom package in holding our virtual meeting presentations. Gary Macalister, our Observer Liaison on Committee and Local Observer Assessor for drivers is also on the Committee of this rotary club. They have bought the full package which means in has additional features and does not switch off after 40 minutes.

As this saves us a considerable fee to Zoom each month, we have made a donation to that charity for the use of their package.